



The Utah Humanist

December 2018

HumanistsofUtah.org

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Humanists of Utah is a Chapter of the American Humanist Association. We are a nonprofit corporation organized to advocate and promote ethical, rational, and democratic humanism among our membership and the larger community.



Humanism is a rational philosophy informed by science, inspired by art, and motivated by compassion. It affirms the dignity of each human being and supports individual liberty consonant with social and planetary responsibility. Humanism advocates participatory democracy, the open society, human rights and social justice. Free of supernaturalism, it recognizes human beings as part of nature and holds that values—be they religious, ethical, social, or political—have their source in human nature, experience, and culture. Humanism thus derives the goals of life from human need and interest rather than from theological or ideological abstractions, and asserts that humanity must take responsibility for its own destiny.

—*The Humanist*,
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Humanist Association

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Where Are We Going?

Happy holidays, humanists! A 2019 *tabula rasa* is at our doorstep and brings us to an exciting yet critical juncture with regard to our future as an organization. In many ways, we find ourselves looking at a distinct and challenging terrain from that of even just a few years ago, and ahead of us there lie many questions to answer. How do we attract new members while strengthening the current ones? How do we balance humanist education with activity and promotion? How do we grow from a group into a viable community? What is next for the Humanists of Utah?

As president, my vision for next year will focus on transformation and taking HoU to the next level as an organization. Seeking to instill change systematically and incrementally through meaningful and strategic actions that make a difference is the most realistic and effective process for future growth as an organization—think heightened evolution, not revolution. We must become nimble, creative and progressive in our approaches, continuing with proven recipes but questioning everything else against the standard of producing a better HoU and community. Together, we can thrive as an active organization that fulfills the aspirations of its members while acting as a magnet for others who share humanist principles of reason, compassion, ethics and naturalism. This can be accomplished in three main ways:

- 1) **Dynamic Leadership (purpose and process).** I will be joined by an energetic and talented mix of board members dedicated to taking HoU to new heights by injecting fresh vim and ideas into its bloodstream. I see the board transitioning in 2019 from a general consultative body to one more proactively anticipating and meeting the needs of our membership in multiple areas through strategic, goal-oriented approaches and where every board seat become a unique role with specific responsibilities such as community relations, event management, and so forth. We will partner with national and state humanist leadership to seek best practices and share ideas. Further, we will implement regular two-way communication with the membership for viewpoints and feedback as standard procedure. We want to hear from you! In the spirit of untapped potential, the question is not “Why?” but “Why not?”—all ideas are on the table as we look to re-energize and extend our reach.

- 2) **Become a Community (togetherness and growth).** To reach

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December

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Eliot Hall

First Unitarian Church

569 S 1300 E, Salt Lake City

6:30 PM

Humanists of Utah will hold our annual Chapter Business Meeting and Banquet. Note the early 6:30 start time. Dinner will be provided by the chapter. The celebration will be held in Eliot Hall at the First Unitarian Church.

Members should have received a ballot in the mail, please fill them out and send them back ASAP. If you have any thoughts or suggestions please note them on the back.

Please come and bring a friend.

Support the AHA

Humanists of Utah urges you to support the American Humanist Association.

The AHA is dedicated to preserving individual rights and promoting nationally the philosophy of humanism.

Membership brings you the *Humanist* magazine and *Free Mind* newsletter six times a year.

Annual membership is only \$45.00 (**\$35 Introductory Rate**) and can be paid with plastic. Phone (800) 743-6646 or write to:

American Humanist Association

**1777 T Street, NW
Washington DC 20009**

Where Are We Going?

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the next level, it is imperative that we morph from a group into a community, attracting new members as well as maintaining current ones. Oftentimes the only exposure a potential member will have to a humanist will be at a HoU meeting or activity and so there must be a sense of purpose and inclusion in all gatherings. In 2019, we will emphasize a default growth mentality (“+1 plan”) wherein we formally define and articulate our community value often and push to attract awareness and increase membership. Of utmost importance is strengthening relationships with existing partners and allies as well as seeking new ones, from area freethinkers to science/education enthusiasts to the non-religious/affiliated to other humanist chapters. I would like to see social bonding increase at meetings and activities and have some ideas for that. An idea to add a meetup group for curious potential humanists outside of our regular meetings is one that deserves consideration. We should also look at renovating the website to add new features and a dynamic look as well

as increase our participation and draw on social media—all critical to exposure. Lastly, we could benefit from increased membership participation, whether volunteering on a committee or at an event or even just voicing thoughts and ideas, for in the end, we are all members seeking an impactful shared experience through Humanism.

- 3) **Be the Change (activism and exposure).** It is here that perhaps we can make the biggest splash as an organization in 2019: we must take humanism outside our group and make a visible difference through community action. From service projects to political, ethical, environmental or other situations that can benefit from humanistic principles via activism, there is no shortage of opportunities for humanism to share its enlightened philosophy with the community. These opportunities can be collective or individual, but there will be times for HoU to move beyond discussion to activism. For example, I would love to see us deliver a dedication at a government meeting in representation of the nonreligious and to show

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Where Are We Going?

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up at activist gatherings in defense of humanistic ideals. This is not only exerting influence with time-honored values, it is another opportunity to reach more potential members. Let us plant our flag and, when appropriate, convert our words into action!

I hope this gives you some insight into the potential for 2019 and that you are as excited as I am. But this venture into the future stands on the backs of many individuals have worked diligently to get us to where we are now. On behalf of HoU, I would like to extend a hearty thank you to retiring board members John Barnes, Sally Jo Fuller and Steve Hanka for their helpful service and efforts during their tenure and hope to still benefit from their presence. Additional thanks to Bob Lane, who has been president of the organization longer than anyone can remember and has put many hours into service for HoU. Bob will still be active as a board member and helping with various activities, so we are lucky to still have his influence and experience working for us.

—Jeff Curtis
Prospective President

Humanists of Utah meetings are open to the public and free of any admission charge. A discussion and light refreshments follow the speaker's presentation. Come join us and **bring a friend!**

Disclaimer: The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of Humanists of Utah nor the American Humanist Association. Reprinting of articles is permitted for humanist groups promoting the interests of humanism if attribution is properly stated.



Humanists of Utah Board

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<vacant> -----VP
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Leona Blackbird-----Treasurer
Wayne Wilson-----Editor/Webmaster

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Membership/Renewal Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

- \$50 Regular Annual Membership and subscription to the *Utah Humanist*
 - \$90 Regular 2-year Membership and subscription to the *Utah Humanist*
 - \$35 Regular Annual Membership with email delivery of the *Utah Humanist*
 - \$65 Regular 2-year Membership with email delivery of the *Utah Humanist*
 - \$20 *Student* Annual Membership and subscription to the *Utah Humanist*
 - \$20 Annual subscription to the *Utah Humanist* (I do not want to be listed as a member of **Humanists of Utah**)
 - Please send a *FREE* trial Subscription to the *Utah Humanist*
 - \$ _____ additional contribution to help promote public awareness of humanism
- ⇒ All contributions in excess of the \$20 subscription fee tax deductible.
⇒ *Members* have the right to vote in Chapter elections and participate in Chapter decisions.
⇒ Dues provide for information packets, honoraria to speakers, expenses of newsletter publication, trial subscriptions, copies to libraries, and newsletter exchange with other chapters.

Humanists of Utah
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West Jordan, UT 84084

Newsletter Contributors

Jeff Curtis

>> Put Your Name Here <<
>> Write an Article! <<

Notes:

- ◆ *General Meetings* are for all members and the general public. There are no admission charges.
- ◆ *Discussion Group* meetings are open to everyone. A different book or topic is covered every month.
- ◆ *Board Meetings* are planning and business sessions. They are open to all members.
- ◆ Eliot Hall is in the First Unitarian Church located at 569 South 1300 East in Salt Lake City.
- ◆ RE 201 is upstairs in the East Educational Building at the First Unitarian Church.

Humanists of Utah is enrolled in Smith's Inspiring Donations program. If you have a Smith's Fresh Value card, you can register it to benefit Humanists of Utah. Simply visit www.smithsfoodanddrug.com/inspire, create an account, associate it with your Fresh Values card number, and then enter NPO Number: KQ330 within your "account summary." All future purchases will now benefit HoU.

—Leona Blackbird

Upcoming Events

Meeting	Topic	Date	Time	Place
General Meeting	Annual Business Meeting & Banquet <i>Can we understand our political situation?</i>	Dec 13	6:30	Eliot Hall
Board Meeting	Chapter Business	Dec 20	7:30	TBA
General Meeting	Clean Air	Jan 10	7:30	Eliot Hall
Board Meeting	Chapter Business	Jan 17	7:30	Eliot Hall



Happy Humanist

Humanists of Utah

A Chapter of the American Humanist Association

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